

VISION



DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN

2030



Water is the Lifeblood of the Delta

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** Message From The Commission Chair
- 2** Introduction
 - Land Use and Resource Management Plan
 - Economic Sustainability Plan
- 6** Vision Statement
- 7** Mission Statement
- 8** Challenges, Principles, Themes And Goals
- 9** Strategic Themes
 - Water
 - Agriculture
 - Levees & Emergency Response
 - Regional Economy
 - Delta Heritage
 - Recreation and Tourism
 - Education and Outreach
- 16** Capacity Building
 - Commission Leadership and Development
 - Funding
- 20** Glossary: Definitions Of Common Acronyms
- 21** Appendices
 - Roster of Commissioners and Staff
 - History of the Delta Protection Commission
 - Sister Agency Diagram

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

On behalf of the Commission, I am honored to present Vision 2030, the Delta Protection Commission's 2015 Strategic Plan. Since 1993, the Commission has served as the voice of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary in the western United States and home to more than 500,000 Californians. Our constituents include generations of farmers, business owners, recreation providers, artists and others from every walk of life, living in an evolving place with a unique historical legacy and a working landscape that is also home to 750 distinct species of plants and animals, some found nowhere else on Earth.

The Commission is committed to the protection and health of the Delta, and Vision 2030 is presented in the midst of many challenges. Statewide fresh water needs threaten the Delta's natural equilibrium and an historic drought strains our habitat and our agricultural, recreational and business assets. This stress can only be expected to increase as the state's population expands over the next fifteen years.

In light of these threats, Vision 2030 offers an opportunity to build relationships and forge policies that will make our vision for a healthy Delta a reality. Vision 2030 defines an approach to embrace "Delta as Place" values and promote California water solutions that ensure water supply reliability to interests both within and outside the Delta, while simultaneously delineating the Commission's regional land use authority, a critical tool for safeguarding the region's richly bucolic setting. The plan also includes initiatives to ensure the Commission's ability to perform at the highest level, now and into the future.

The Commission thanks the Delta Protection Advisory Committee, members of the public and the Commission staff that contributed to every facet of Vision 2030. The commitment of the Delta community to its region is unmatched, and the Commission is grateful for this level of community support. I invite each and every Californian to read Vision 2030 and join us in implementing its objectives. Working together, we can promote and achieve an environment and economy focused on agriculture, recreation and natural resources, while remaining mindful of the importance of the Delta to all Californians.

Mary Nejedly Piepho
Commission Chair

INTRODUCTION

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the Heart of California on many levels – geographically, historically, and even physically as the central distribution point for California’s lifeblood: water. The region enjoys a lovely, moderate climate and a prime location – only a brief drive from every major population center in Northern California, and bounded by highways to world-famous Lake Tahoe and Yosemite. It’s an oasis of rural beauty surrounded by high density urban populations, dotted with small towns that tell the stories of the opening of the West – the Gold Rush, immigration, riverboat travel.

The Delta’s incredibly productive soil has helped feed Americans for generations, and now the growing Farm-to-Fork movement makes Delta growers the ideal local suppliers for over 9.5 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and Stockton metropolitan regions, and the growing Interstate highway corridors.



The Delta’s thousand-plus miles of levees and waterways and vast islands offer recreation options for multiple outdoor enthusiasts: boaters, hunters, fishermen, pedalers, paddlers, bikers, heritage tourists, wine tasters, ecotourists, music buffs, photographers, historians, birdwatchers and more. It’s a natural resource paradise, a physical, livable place, reflective of our heritage and rich beyond compare in beauty and wildlife.

It HAS to be safe. It HAS to be viable. It HAS to be protected, and it needs to be shared.

Yet Paradise is in crisis. Delta water exports and other stressors over the decades have coincided with declines in the Delta ecosystem. These negative effects will only get worse as populations grow, demand for fresh water increases and climate change continues.

With freshwater quality deterioration and fish population decline, the economic sustainability of Delta communities – now overwhelmingly supported by agriculture (dependent on water quality) and recreation in the form of boating and fishing (which require clean water and strong fish populations) - is threatened.

The levee system, even more crucial to protect lives, businesses and infrastructure as sea levels rise and soils subside, is under increasing pressure. Invasive species are clogging waterways, impeding commercial shipping and recreation, and a struggling economy means fewer resources are directed toward solving these urgent problems.

Everything in the Delta is interconnected. The environment sustains the economy which supports the people who run the businesses that attract the people who enjoy the environment, and the circle begins again. As the State’s population increases, the demand for water grows, and irreplaceable natural resources and fisheries continue to struggle. The choices made in the Delta over the next fifteen years will dramatically affect California and her people.



AUTHORITY

The Delta Protection Commission was established by the Delta Protection Act of 1992 (Act). In passing the Act the Legislature affirmed “it is the policy of the State to recognize, preserve and protect those resources of the Delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.” Later amendments to the Act introduced the concept of the “co-equal goals” of both Delta ecosystem protection and “providing a more reliable water supply for California”, but insisted that these co-equal goals “be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.”

The Delta Protection Commission serves as an important forum for Delta residents to provide recommendations and take actions to benefit the Delta as an evolving place. This includes promoting, facilitating, and administering efforts to improve flood protection, agriculture, habitat, cultural resources and recreation. It also performs an important land use function by adopting a Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP) and ensuring that local government land use decisions are consistent with that plan. In cases where local land use decisions are inconsistent, they are subject to Commission review and may be overturned by Commission action.

Throughout Vision 2030, reference will be made to the LURMP as well as the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP), which directs and informs the economic sustainability activities of the Delta Protection Commission and others. These are the tools that have protected and served the Delta in the past, and the Commission will continue to rely on them for significant direction in the future, helping the Commission to preserve and enhance the Delta’s precious resources for generations to come.

Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP)

The Delta Protection Act requires the Delta Protection Commission to prepare, adopt, review, and maintain a comprehensive long-term resource management plan for land uses within the Primary Zone. The LURMP describes the needs and goals for the Delta, and presents a statement of the policies, standards, and elements of the plan. All local governments are required to submit proposed amendments to their general plans to the Delta Protection Commission, to ensure that local government general plans are consistent with the Commission’s plan. The plan applies to land uses, not to water supply or water quality, and generally addresses local government issues and actions, not those of State or federal agencies. Local government actions may be appealed to the Delta Protection Commission for review of consistency with the LURMP.

The LURMP is one of the few examples in California where

a State agency has regional oversight over local land use decisions, and is designed to ensure that proposed land use changes in the Delta are protective of the region’s abundant agricultural and natural resource values. Over the years this document has been repeatedly invoked to prevent inappropriate development within the Delta.

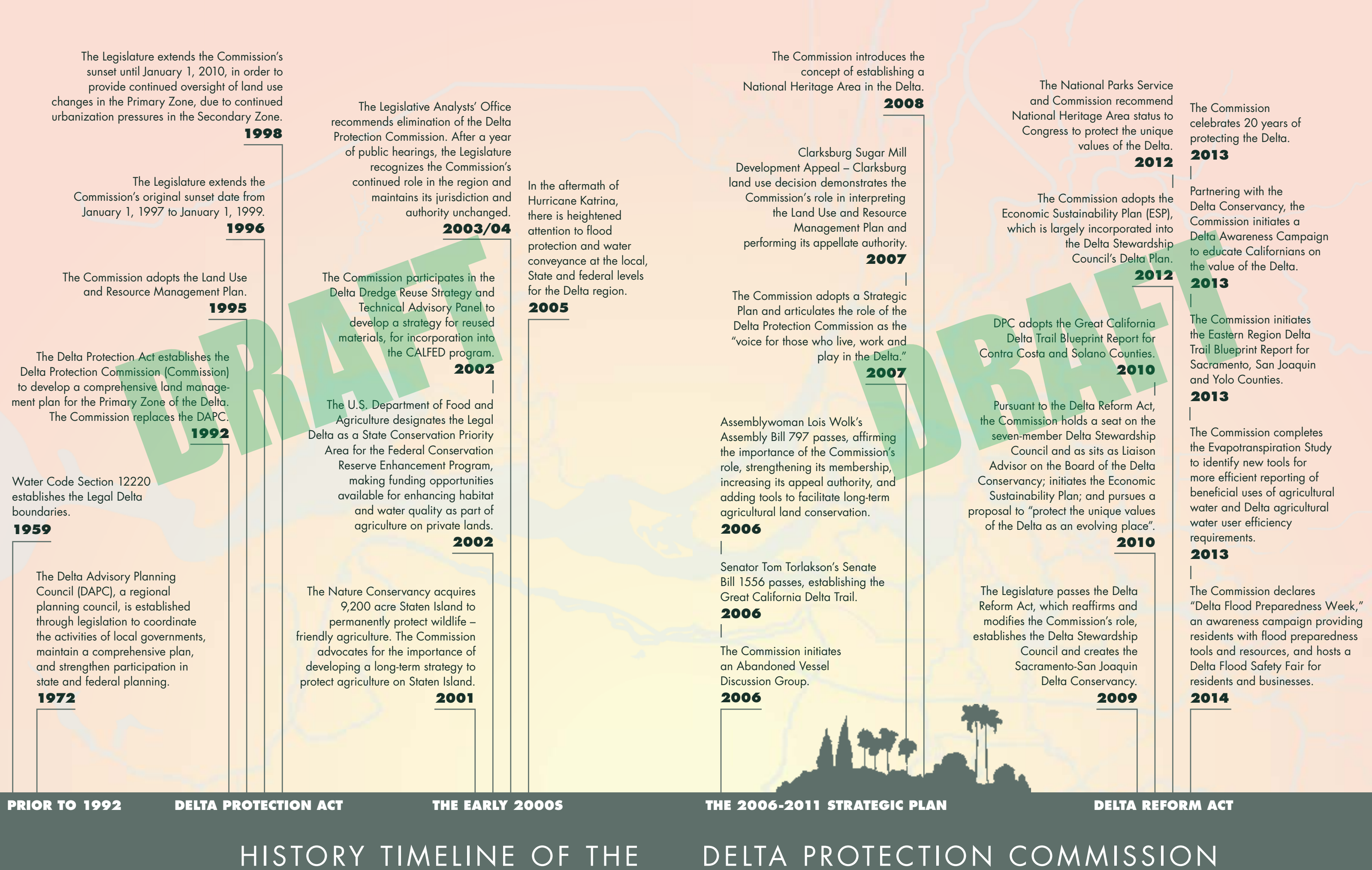
Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP)

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 established the following requirements for an Economic Sustainability Plan that includes, but is not limited to:

1. Public safety recommendations, such as flood protection recommendations.
2. The economic goals, policies, and objectives in local general plans and other economic efforts including recommendations on continued socioeconomic sustainability of agriculture and its infrastructure in the Delta.
3. Comments and recommendations to the Department of Water Resources concerning its periodic update of the flood management plan for the Delta.
4. Identification of ways to encourage appropriate recreational investment along the key river corridors.

It is significant that the Legislature directed the Commission to lead development of these policies and recommendations, many of which were adopted into the final Delta Plan. The Commission continues to monitor, update and implement ESP recommendations on an ongoing basis for the benefit of the Delta economy.





VISION STATEMENT

Valuing the needs of the Delta as well as the needs of the State is fundamental to achieving the Delta Protection Commission's vision: the ideal synthesis of cultural, ecological and agricultural values in a sustainable, healthy, and celebrated way of life.

By 2030, the Delta will be recognized and enjoyed as a prime leisure destination, agriculture and its support services will thrive, and unique "Delta as Place" values will be embraced Statewide, nationally and worldwide.

By 2030, the Commission will represent Delta interests in development of a water solution for California that ensures water supply reliability to both Delta and out-side-of-Delta interests.

The Commission will continue to work to expand and enrich the Delta economy. Protection and enhancement of commercial agriculture in the Delta is essential to the economic sustainability of the Delta as a globally-important source of food production.

The Commission will advocate for the safety and prosperity of the Delta by supporting necessary maintenance and improvements for Delta levees and roads, effective emergency response planning, and flood preparedness throughout Delta communities.

The Commission will secure funding for the Delta Investment Fund, advance investments in Delta communities, and obtain grants, develop partnerships and gain policy support for Commission objectives.

The Commission, through its strong relationships with Delta stakeholders and other agencies, is in a powerful position to promote, educate and advocate for Delta interests. Commission members will continue to deliver balanced, effective and trusted leadership of Delta interests to supporters and opponents alike, aided by dedicated, professional Commission staff.



MISSION STATEMENT

"Committed to the Protection and Health of the Delta"

We protect, maintain, enhance and enrich the overall quality of the Delta environment and economy. We do this with a focus on agriculture, recreation and natural resources, while remaining mindful of the importance of the Delta to all Californians.

"The Legislature...finds and declares that the basic goals of the state for the Delta are the following:

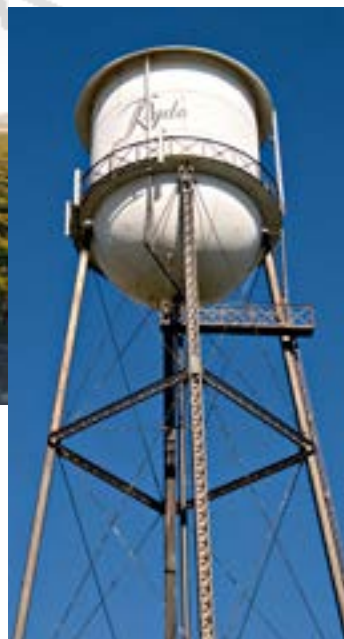
(a) Achieve the two coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.

(b) Protect, maintain, and, where possible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment, including, but not limited to, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities.

(c) Ensure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources.

(d) Improve flood protection by structural and nonstructural means to ensure an increased level of public health and safety."

Delta Protection Act of 1992, updated 2009 (Public Resources Code 29702).



CHALLENGES, PRINCIPLES, THEMES AND GOALS

Throughout the modern history of the Delta, its residents have faced recurring challenges:

- Managing too much water, or not enough of the right quality water
- Meeting the needs of some without ignoring the needs of others
- Keeping people and property safe
- Sustaining long-term economic and environmental vitality
- Developing and maintaining community infrastructure for essential services
- Competing with Statewide interests on crucial Delta issues

For more than 20 years, the Delta Protection Commission has been the Voice of the Delta and a catalyst for identifying and implementing solutions for these challenges and others. The Commission has adapted to emerging issues with its focus always on protecting the unique values of the Delta.



The Commission's guiding principles articulate the values and criteria to be used in developing objectives and actions:

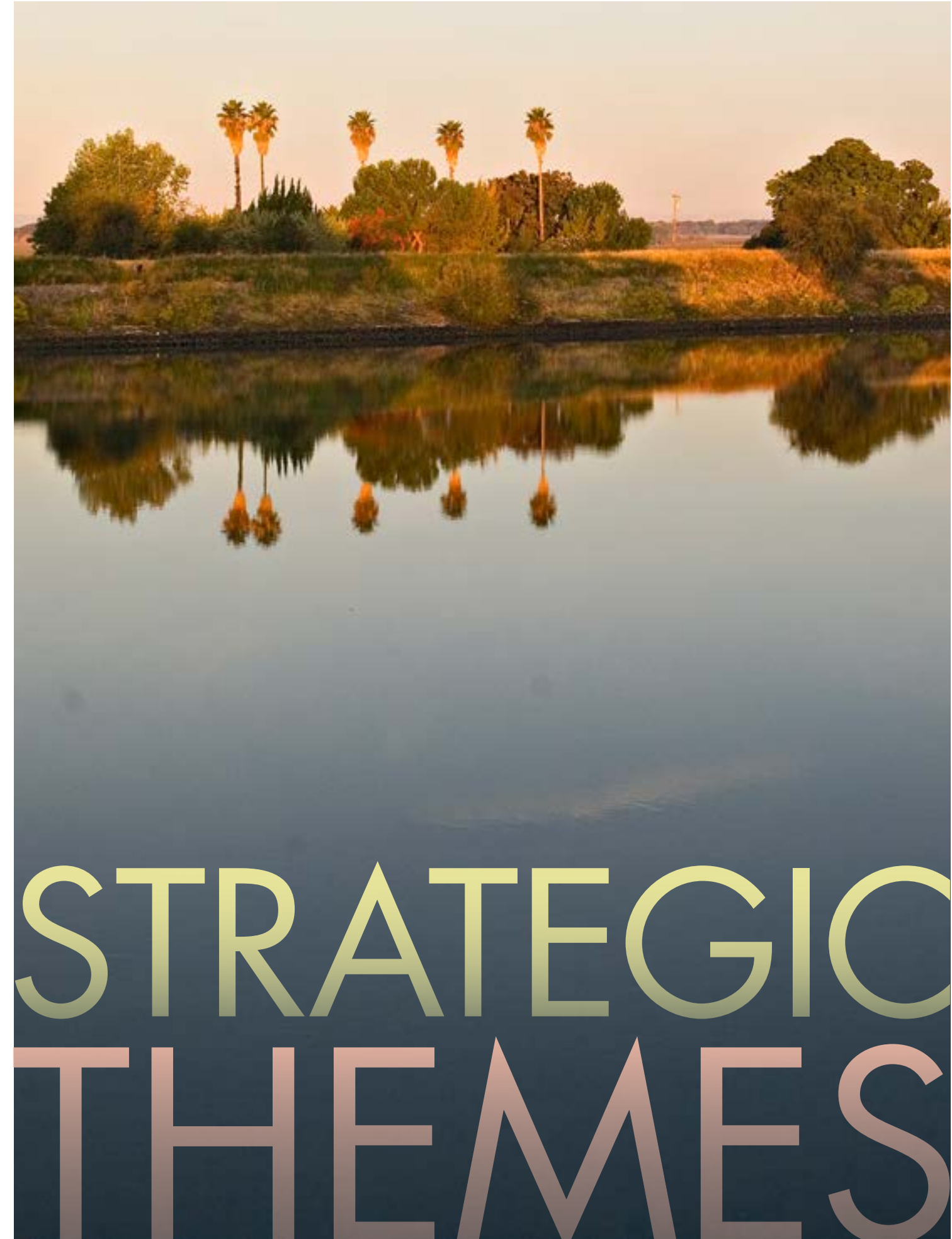
- Protect – The land, its people and its ecosystems
- Restore – Natural resources, economic health and wildlife populations
- Enhance – Economic drivers, historic and cultural treasures, and appreciation
- Provide - A voice for residents in decisions affecting their region
- Facilitate - Partnerships among stakeholders, agencies and beneficiaries

The Strategic Themes for Vision 2030 represent the Commission's portfolio of responsibilities and are supported by legislative mandates of the Delta Protection Act of 1992 and Delta Reform Act of 2009, as well as the recommendations and directives of the Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan, Economic Sustainability Plan, and the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan. The Strategic Themes are:

- Water
- Agriculture
- Levees and Emergency Response
- Regional Economy
- Delta Heritage
- Recreation and Tourism
- Education and Outreach

The Overarching Goals represent the aim of the Delta Protection Commission to fulfill its Mission by:

- Sustaining and enhancing existing economic drivers
- Fostering new opportunities for economic development
- Protecting and promoting cultural treasures
- Creating cooperative relationships
- Proactively addressing funding





Water is the lifeblood of the Delta. The Delta Protection Commission seeks a reliable fresh water supply for the Delta while remaining mindful of California's need for water. The Commission insists that a viable California water solution must respect and protect the Delta's unique values.

OBJECTIVES:

- W.1** Promote Statewide water solutions that **reduce reliance on Delta fresh water** supplies, **provide through-Delta fresh water conveyance** to protect Delta water quality and water rights, and **protect and enhance** the Delta's natural resources, recreation, agriculture, adjacent urban areas and economies.
- 1.1 Create products (e.g. white papers, videos, brochures etc.) to **inform and educate** the public, opinion leaders and policymakers on the benefit of through-Delta conveyance on water quality, water rights, and regional ecosystem and economy.
 - 1.2 Work with Delta-supportive interests to **identify alternative solutions** for water supply reliability in California.
 - 1.3 **Analyze proposals** for addressing water supply reliability for compatibility with Delta values.

- W.2** Increase Commission coordination to **advocate for legislation and funding** that protect Delta fresh water resources.
- W.3** Work to resolve the problem of **aquatic invasive species** as a fundamental water quality issue in the Delta.



"Water is extremely valuable to all Californians...Northern California is a significant source of the state's water project exports, and this water moves through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Many programs and plans have been developed over the last 100 years to transport this water to agricultural and urban users in other parts of the state."

All these programs and plans included elements to protect the riparian water rights of upstream rights holders and Delta water rights holders. These water rights are key to the longevity and vitality of Delta agriculture and the Delta region as a whole."

[2012 Economic Sustainability Plan, Chapter 4.5, pg. 55]

The Delta Protection Commission works to conserve agricultural land and economically sustainable agricultural operations in the Delta.

OBJECTIVES:

- A.1** **Protect and enhance long-term viability** of commercial agriculture.
- 1.1 Develop and adopt an Agricultural Sustainability Plan
 - 1.2 In partnership, develop and implement **Rural-Urban Connection Strategies (RUCS)** for infrastructure improvements necessary to enhance the Delta agricultural economy.
 - 1.3 Research and evaluate options to provide adequate **farm labor housing**.
 - 1.4 Promote **Farm-to-Fork** and agritourism opportunities for the direct benefit of Delta growers.
- A.2** **Protect agricultural lands from inappropriate development.**
- 2.1 Implement the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP).
 - 2.2 Evaluate and **update the LURMP** to address current conversion challenges in the Delta, such as proposed industrial-scale alternative energy developments and large-scale habitat restoration.
 - 2.3 Advocate for the use of existing **public lands** and lands owned by conservation entities for habitat restoration to minimize the conversion of productive Delta agricultural land, in part by encouraging identification and mapping of suitable lands.
 - 2.4 Advocate for appropriate land usage through the consultation process on **Delta Conservancy restoration**

projects, as required by the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

- A.3** Support **wildlife-friendly farming** and agriculture-friendly habitat restoration.
- 3.1 Promote and disseminate **"good neighbor" policies** to Delta farms and environmental entities.
 - 3.2 Collaborate to develop, adopt and publish **"best management practices"** for ag-friendly habitat restoration, using outcomes of the Delta Working Landscapes project and others.



"The delta is an agricultural region of great value to the state and nation and the retention and continued cultivation and production of fertile peat lands and prime soils are of significant value."

The agricultural land of the delta, while adding greatly to the economy of the state, also provides a significant value as open space and habitat for waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway, as well as other wildlife, and the continued dedication and retention of that delta land in agricultural production contributes to the preservation and enhancement of open space and habitat values."

[Public Resources Code 29703(a) and (b)]





The Delta Protection Commission promotes the protection of life and property through the maintenance and improvement of Delta levees, and emergency preparedness and response. This includes long-term planning for ongoing, cumulative levee improvements to address new issues as they arise.

OBJECTIVES:

- L.1** Partner with local, State, and federal governments to **improve emergency preparedness and response** to protect Delta communities, property, and infrastructure.
 - 1.1 Support development of a **Delta-wide Unified Emergency Plan**.
 - 1.2 **Support Levee Maintaining Agencies** in collaborative efforts (e.g. emergency preparedness and response, levee standards, regional funding, public education, communication) and advocate for inclusion of Levee Maintaining Agencies in levee prioritization and other Delta-wide decision-making processes.



- L.2** Advocate for **reliable funding** for Delta levee maintenance and improvements.
 - 2.1 Seek **pro-Delta implementation** of levee funding in the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 and other sources.
 - 2.2 Advocate with all agencies to prioritize levee funding for **minimum PL 84-99 level of protection for the entire Delta**.
 - 2.3 Develop and promote a levee funding strategy that incorporates **financial support from private and public sources**, including contributions from previous non-contributors ("beneficiaries pay").
 - 2.4 Pursue **permanent status** and other Delta-supported improvements to the Delta Levee Subvention and Special Projects Programs.
 - 2.5 Advocate at the federal, State, and local level to ensure availability of levee **repair and recovery funding** for damages after Delta flood events.

- L.3** Work to ensure that Delta residents are **represented in decision-making** processes.

"The Legislature further finds and declares that the leveed islands and tracts of the delta and portions of its uplands are flood-prone areas of critical statewide significance due to the public safety risks and the costs of public emergency responses to floods, and that improvement and ongoing maintenance of the levee system is a matter of continuing urgency to protect farmlands, population centers, the state's water quality, and significant natural resource and habitat areas of the delta."

[Public Resources Code 29704]



The Delta Protection Commission promotes a robust regional economy that protects agriculture, natural resources and the cultural values of the Delta.

OBJECTIVES:

- E.1** Lead the implementation and required updating of the Economic Sustainability Plan.
- E.2** Identify the **regional infrastructure needs and opportunities** to maximize Delta regional benefits.
 - 2.1 Assess and monitor infrastructure needs for the Legacy Communities and surrounding areas, including recreation and tourism business needs.
 - 2.2 Advocate for necessary infrastructure improvements with State and local government and other partners.

"The region's rich history boasts of bustling, river-based commerce before the automobile age, and its cultural uniqueness includes the only rural town in America built by early Chinese immigrants. As the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas, the Delta is also a place of striking natural beauty and ecological significance... Although surrounded by growing cities, the Delta remains a highly-productive agricultural area with rural charms, landscapes, and waterscapes not found elsewhere in California."

[2012 Economic Sustainability Plan, Chapter 1]



- E.3** Facilitate regional economic development projects using the Delta Investment Fund.
 - 3.1 Develop and maintain a plan for **Delta Investment Fund** spending and seek support for the Delta Investment Fund through State appropriations and other sources.
- E.4** **Identify and address environmental factors** that negatively impact the economic sustainability of the Delta.
 - 4.1 Partner with local government and State agencies to control invasive aquatic species which negatively impact recreation, tourism and water supply.
 - 4.2 Advocate for improved beautification of Delta roadways.





The Delta Protection Commission promotes and enhances the Delta's unique cultural and natural heritage.

OBJECTIVES:

- H.1** Protect the Delta's distinctive character and land uses through implementation of the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP).
- H.2** Protect and promote the cultural and historical resources of the Delta.
- 2.1 Complete and maintain a cultural and historical resources inventory.
- 2.2 Work with Congress and the National Park Service to establish a **National Heritage Area** in the Delta.
- 2.3 Advance recognition of the national significance and **unique stories of the Delta** and support implementation of associated projects, e.g. the Delta Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Corridor.
- 2.4 Plan and pursue implementation of historic preservation projects, e.g. the Clarksburg Gakuen.
- H.3** Support local governments in preparing and implementing plans that emphasize the vitality and preservation of **Legacy Communities**.
- H.4** Promote and enhance the Delta's heritage of natural resources, such as wildlife habitat, scenic value, soils and water.
- 4.1 Coordinate with the Delta Conservancy to complete a biological and ecological inventory.
- 4.2 Facilitate habitat restoration and enhancement projects consistent with Delta values.
- 4.3 Advocate for appropriate land usage through the consultation process on **Delta Conservancy restoration projects**, as required by the Water

- Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1).
- 4.4 Partner with local government and State agencies to control invasive aquatic species that negatively impact recreation, navigation, tourism and water supply.

"The first goal is to 'identify the Delta as a region of national significance to educate the public about 'Delta as a Place', and build more support for preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Delta. Utilizing public input, five proposed themes have been developed which explain the Delta's national significance:

1. *At the heart of California lies America's inland Delta.*
2. *Conversion of the Delta from marshland to farmland was one of the largest reclamation projects in the United States.*
3. *Multi-cultural contributions and experiences have shaped the Delta's rural landscape.*
4. *The Delta, California's cornucopia, is amongst the most fertile agricultural regions in the world.*
5. *The Delta lies at the center of California's water resource challenges."*

[2012 National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, Executive Summary, pg. 4]

The Delta Protection Commission is committed to national recognition of the Delta as a diverse, accessible, modern recreation and tourism destination.

OBJECTIVES:

- R.1** Partner with public agencies and private entities to encourage increased recreation and tourism in the Delta.
- 1.1 Maintain current Delta **recreation resource inventory**.
- 1.2 Identify recreation needs and apply available resources to meet those needs, including public-private partnerships and multiple use of appropriate Delta lands.
- 1.3 Extend the **Great California Delta Trail** by continuing planning, support and collaboration efforts.
- 1.4 Partner with Visit California and others to promote the Delta as a **unique destination region** to potential visitors, in-state, nationally and internationally.
- 1.5 Increase Delta agritourism by increasing awareness of **Farm-to-Fork elements** and other rural tourism opportunities.
- R.2** Encourage protection of private lands from unauthorized recreational uses by promoting and educating users on recreational opportunities on public lands and private recreation facilities.
- R.3** Promote and encourage Delta-wide coordination and collaboration on boating, boating safety, and related programs.

- 3.1 Coordinate partnerships that **reduce abandoned vessels** in Delta waterways by improving title transfer procedures, implementing incentives and penalties to prevent abandonment, and developing abatement funding sources.
- 3.2 Work with US Coast Guard, local agencies and others on a **coordinated marine patrol** strategy that improves Delta boating safety and emergency response.
- R.4** Partner with local government and State agencies to control **invasive aquatic species** that negatively impact recreational navigation, tourism and water supply.





EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Delta Protection Commission is the voice of those who live, work and play in the Delta. In this role, the Commission is committed to actively supporting communication between stakeholders and policymakers, creating a forum through which Delta residents and businesses can make their interests heard.

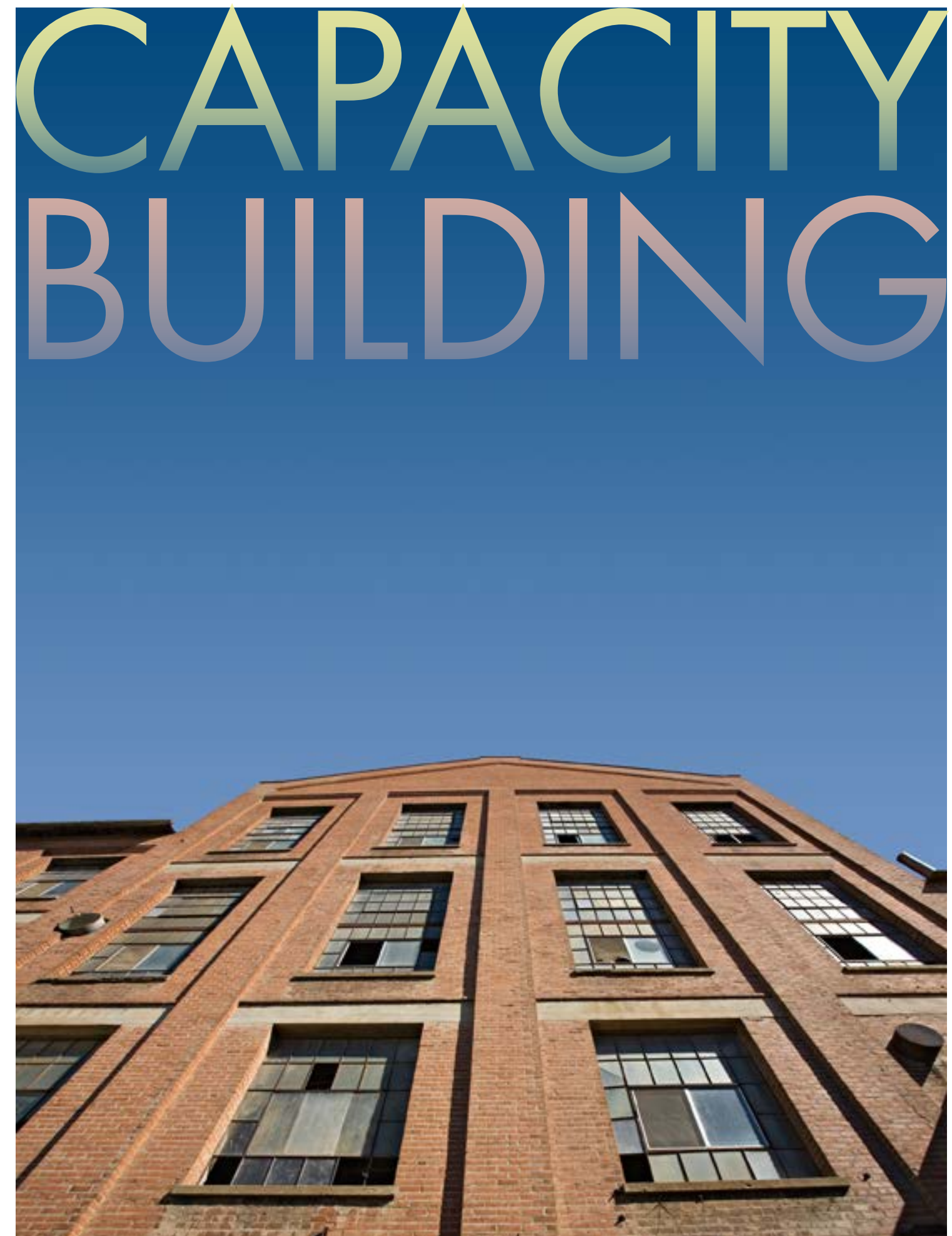
OBJECTIVE:

O.1 Ensure consistent, proactive communication between and among Delta interests and decision makers.

- 1.1 Develop, implement and maintain a **proactive** Delta Protection Commission Communication and **Outreach Plan** that covers all Commission program areas with a clear message, coordinated with all partners.
- 1.2 Respond to emerging issues of importance in the Delta in a prompt, effective and transparent manner, with a high degree of flexibility.
- 1.3 Foster **two-way communication** throughout the Delta.
 - 1.3.1 Actively seek input and opinions from the Delta to inform decisions impacting the region.
 - 1.3.2 **Provide a forum** for residents, businesses and Delta interests to participate in decisions affecting the Delta.
 - 1.3.3 Foster communication between Delta interests for improved, coordinated action.
- 1.4 Support an **active and engaged** Delta Protection **Advisory Committee** structure, including utilizing expert work groups, to provide recommendations to the Commission.



- 1.5 Develop an **ambassador program** to effectively elicit input from Delta residents and businesses.
- 1.6 Collaborate with partners on communicating about shared projects, e.g. Delta Awareness Campaign, abandoned vessel abatement, invasive species, etc.





CAPACITY BUILDING

The Delta Protection Commission continually strives to adapt and grow in order to most effectively fulfill its Mission. In addition to the Strategic Themes, it has established a complementary set of initiatives planned to increase capacity to deliver superior service to Delta constituents and to the Delta region as a whole, as follows:

- The Commission promotes a **culture of leadership and excellence** among Commission members and staff, and
- The Commission creatively develops funding to **increase the overall feasibility and sustainability** of all of the Commission's Vision.



COMMISSION LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

The Delta Protection Commission demonstrates effective and efficient leadership by developing and supporting Commission members and providing expert Commission staff.

OBJECTIVES:

- C.1** Support Commission members, so that each member can operate at their most effective level.
 - 1.1 Develop and implement a Commissioner **Orientation** program.
 - 1.2 Ensure well-informed and prepared Commission members.
 - 1.3 Provide training to Commission members to help them fulfill the **Commission's appellate function** on land use decisions appealed to the Commission.
- C.2** Encourage subcommittees as needed to advance Commission Initiatives (e.g. Strategic Plan Subcommittee).
- C.3** Recruit, develop and maintain effective Commission staff.
 - 3.1 Develop and regularly update a Vision 2030 **Implementation Plan**, corresponding staff Work Plans, and Individual Development Plans to implement Commission initiatives.
 - 3.2 Annually review staffing needs, expertise and **organizational capacity**. Evaluate long-term needs for positions and levels of expertise and ensure that staff have necessary resources and training to successfully perform their functions.





FUNDING

To accomplish its initiatives to the fullest degree, the Delta Protection Commission seeks to maximize available funding sources to protect and enhance the unique community and cultural values, recreation and tourism, natural resources and agriculture of the Delta.

OBJECTIVES:

- F.1** Utilize the **Delta Investment Fund** to support economic sustainability.
 - 1.1 Identify federal, State and private sources of potential funding.
 - 1.2 Explore feasibility of a **Delta License Plate** to benefit the Delta Investment Fund.
 - 1.3 Assist the interested Delta public to create fundraising to benefit Delta Investment Fund.
- F.2** Continuously research, identify and develop funding sources to support Commission operations and worthy and compatible activities in the Delta.
 - 2.1 Explore entities such as In Our Back Yard (IOBY) and Kickstarter to help **crowd-source funds** for Delta community investments.
 - 2.2 Partner with any **Delta region community benefit foundation** or other appropriate private funding sources.
 - 2.3 Secure funding for Commission priorities by pursuing grants, partnerships and State appropriations.



COMMON ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| AWAF Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund | ICS Incident Command System |
| BDCP Bay Delta Conservation Plan | IEP Inter-Agency Ecological Program |
| BLS Bureau of Labor Statistics | IRP Independent Review Panel |
| BMP Best Management Practices | JPA Joint-Powers Authority |
| CalEMA California Emergency Management Agency | MOU Memorandum of Understanding |
| Caltrans California Department of Transportation | MWD Metropolitan Water District of Southern California |
| CBDA California Bay-Delta Authority | NAIP National Agriculture Imagery Program |
| CCWD Contra Costa Water District | NASS National Agricultural Statistics Service |
| CDBG Community Development Block Grant | NBA North Bay Aqueduct |
| CDWR California Department of Water Resources | NFIP National Flood Insurance Program |
| CEQA California Environmental Quality Act | NGO Non-Governmental Organization |
| CPI Consumer Price Index | NIMS National Incident Management System |
| CVFPP Central Valley Flood Protection Plan | NRC National Research Council |
| CVP Central Valley Project | NCCP Natural Communities Conservation Plan |
| CWC California Water Code | PG&E Pacific Gas and Electric Company |
| The Delta The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta | PL Public Law |
| DAPC The Delta Area Planning Council | PL 84-99 Public Law 84-99 Federal Levee Standards |
| Delta Conservancy The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy | POD Pelagic Organism Decline |
| DFW Department of Fish and Wildlife | PPIC Public Policy Institute of California |
| DHCCP Delta Habitat Conservation & Conveyance Plan | ROA Restoration Opportunity Area |
| DLHAC Delta Levees Habitat Advisory Committee | ROW Right of Way |
| DMV Department of Motor Vehicles | SA Study Area |
| DPC Delta Protection Commission | SACOG Sacramento Area Council of Governments |
| DRMS Delta Risk Management Strategy | SAFCA Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency |
| DSC Delta Stewardship Council | SEMS Standardized Emergency Management System |
| DU Ducks Unlimited | SFHA Special Flood Hazard Area |
| DWR Department of Water Resources | SHRA Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency |
| EDI Economic Development Initiative | SJAFCA San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency |
| EIR Environmental Impact Report | SRA State Recreation Area |
| EIS Environmental Impact Statement | SWP State Water Project |
| ESA Federal Endangered Species Act | SWRCB State Water Resources Control Board |
| ESP Economic Sustainability Plan | TNC The Nature Conservancy |
| EPA Environmental Protection Agency | TRPA Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| FDPA Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 | UC University of California |
| FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency | UOP University of the Pacific |
| FIS Flood Insurance Study | UPL Urban Project Levee |
| FMMP California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program | USACE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| GIS Geographic Information System | USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| HCP Habitat Conservation Planning | USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| | USGS U.S. Geological Survey |
| | WSAFCA West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency |

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

Mary N. Piepho, Chair

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Alternate: Karen Mitchoff

Skip Thomson, Vice-Chair

Solano County Board of Supervisors
Alternate: John Vasquez

Brian Bugsch

CA State Lands Commission
Alternate: Eric Gillies

Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor

City of West Sacramento
Alternate: Chris Ledesma

Bob Elliott, Supervisor

San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
Alternate: Kathy Miller

Robert K. Ferguson

South Delta Reclamation Districts
Alternate: Dean Ruiz, Esq.

Brian Kelly, Secretary

CA State Transportation Agency
Alternates: Kate White & Brian Annis

John Laird, Secretary

CA Natural Resources Agency
Alternate: Todd Ferrara & Janelle Beland

Don Nottoli, Supervisor

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Alternate: Patrick Kennedy

Norman Richardson, Mayor

City of Rio Vista
Alternate: David Hampton

Karen Ross, Secretary

CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Alternate: Josh Eddy

Michael Scriven

Central Delta Reclamation Districts
Alternate: Dante Nomellini Sr.

Anthony Silva, Mayor

City of Stockton
Alternate: Alan Nakanishi

Justin van Loben Sels

North Delta Reclamation Districts
Alternate: Tom Slater

Oscar Villegas, Supervisor

Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Alternate: Jim Provenza

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DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1959 – Water Code Section 12220 establishes the legal Delta boundaries.

1967 – Inter-County Delta Planning and Recreation Advisory Committee established to study planning matters and recreational developments. Committee had limited staff support to implement planning efforts.

1972 – Delta Advisory Planning Council (DAPC) – a regional planning council established to coordinate the activities of local governments, maintain a comprehensive plan, and strengthen participation in state and federal planning.

Delta Protection Act

1992 – Delta Protection Act establishes DPC to develop a comprehensive land management plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta. The DPC replaces DAPC.

1994 – DPC conducts various studies on land use, agriculture, recreation and levees to inform a comprehensive management plan.

1995 – The DPC adopts the Land Use and Resource Management Plan.

1996 – The Legislature extends the Commission's original sunset date from January 1, 1997 to January 1, 1999.

1997 – DPC updates the Inventory of Delta Recreation Facilities.

1998 – The Legislature extends DPC's sunset until January 1, 2010, in order to provide continued oversight of land use changes in the Primary Zone, due to continued urbanization pressures in the Secondary Zone.

1998 – The Commission advises and monitors the CALFED process and the proposed impacts to land uses in the Delta Primary Zone.

1999 – Delta Protection Act is amended to include the new City of Oakley and requires that any new General Plans in the Primary Zone of the Delta must be consistent with the Commission's adopted Land Use and Resource Management Plan.



The Early 2000s

2000 – Delta agriculture suffers several hard blows, including the bankruptcy of Tri Valley Growers cooperative, the closure of tomato processing facilities and sugar refineries in Woodland, and lower than usual Delta Crop prices.

2000 – CALFED Record of Decision signed.

2001 – The Nature Conservancy acquires 9,200 acre Staten Island to permanently protect wildlife – friendly agriculture. The Commission advocates on the importance of developing a long-term strategy to protect agriculture on Staten Island.

2002 – DPC supports the development of the Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council through the US Secretary for Agriculture, with a mission to ensure the protection and enhancement of agriculture.

2002 – U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture designates the Legal Delta a State Conservation Priority Area for the Federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, making funding opportunities available for enhancing habitat and water quality as part of agriculture on private lands.

2002 – DPC participates in the Delta Dredge Reuse Strategy and Technical Advisory Panel to develop a strategy for reused materials for incorporation into CALFED program. The final report summarizes all dredging data for the last decade and addresses regulatory challenges associated with dredging in the Delta.

2002 – California Bay-Delta Authority created to oversee implementation of the CALFED program, with one representative of the Delta appointed by the Governor.

2003/04 – The LAO recommends elimination of the Commission because its mandated tasks have been completed. After a year of public hearings and discussions, the Legislature recognized DPC's continued role in the region and maintained its jurisdiction and authority unchanged.



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2004 – Jones Tract levee breaks, and consequently DPC prepares a Delta levees conference in co-sponsorship with the California Bay-Delta Authority.

2005 – DPC completes the Delta Recreation Master Strategy focusing on Aquatic Resources with funding from the Department of Boating and Waterways.

2005 – In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, there is heightened attention to flood protection and water conveyance at the local, state and federal levels for the Delta region.

The 2006 Strategic Plan

2006 – DPC initiates an Abandoned Vessel Discussion Group.

2006 – Senator Tom Torlakson Bill 1556 passes establishing the Great California Delta Trail.

2006 – Little Hoover Commission reviews CALFED using contributions from DPC regarding land use indicators and trends in the areas of agriculture, habitat, and recreation.

2006 – Senator Lois Wolk Bill AB 797 passes, affirming the importance of DPC’s role, strengthening its membership, increasing its appeal authority, and adding tools to facilitate long-term agricultural land conservation.

2006 – DPC and five counties collaborate to install “Welcome to the Delta” signs at strategic entry points and establish the contemporary marketing of “Delta as Place.”

2006 – DPC contributes towards development of a Long Term Management Strategy for Dredging and Lower Yolo Bypass Management Plan.

2006 – DPC participates in the Delta Emergency Response Summit.

2007 – DPC adopts a Strategic Plan and articulates the role of Commission as the “voice for those who live, work and play in the Delta.”



2007 – DPC participates in the visioning process for the Delta Blue Ribbon Task Force.

2007 – DPC facilitates a five-County Emergency Planning Forum, which influenced the introduction and passage of SB 27 –the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Emergency Preparedness Act.

2007 – Clarksburg Sugar Mill Development Appeal – Clarksburg land use decision demonstrates the Commission’s role in interpreting the Land Use and Resource Management Plan and performing its appellate authority.

2008 – DPC introduces the concept of establishing a National Heritage Area in the Delta.

2008 – DPC contributes to a proposal for a Delta specific conservancy.



Delta Reform Act

2009 – Legislature passes Delta Reform Act, which reaffirms and modifies DPC’s role, and establishes the Delta Stewardship Council and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.

2010 – The Commission adopts an updated Land Use and Resource Management Plan.

2010 – Pursuant Delta Reform Act, the DPC participates on the Delta Stewardship Council and as a member of the Delta Conservancy; initiates the Economic Sustainability Plan; and pursues a proposal to protect the unique values of the Delta as an evolving place.

2010 – DPC adopts the Great California Delta Trail Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano Counties.

2010 – DPC leads a collaborative that contributes to the Regional Water Quality Board’s draft document on Mercury TMDL, in response to mandates from the US EPA and CA EPA.

2012 – The Commission adopts the Economic Sustainability Plan, which is largely incorporated into the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan.

2012 – DPC recommends to Congress the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study as proposal to protect the unique values of the Delta.

2012 – Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force (SB 27) Report released.

2012 – DPC cosponsors the Delta Levee Standards Conference with the Water Education Foundation.

2013 – DPC completes the Evapotranspiration Study (E.T. Study) addressing concerns over beneficial uses of agricultural water and Delta agricultural water user efficiency requirements.

2013 – DPC initiates the Eastern Region Delta Trail Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo Counties.

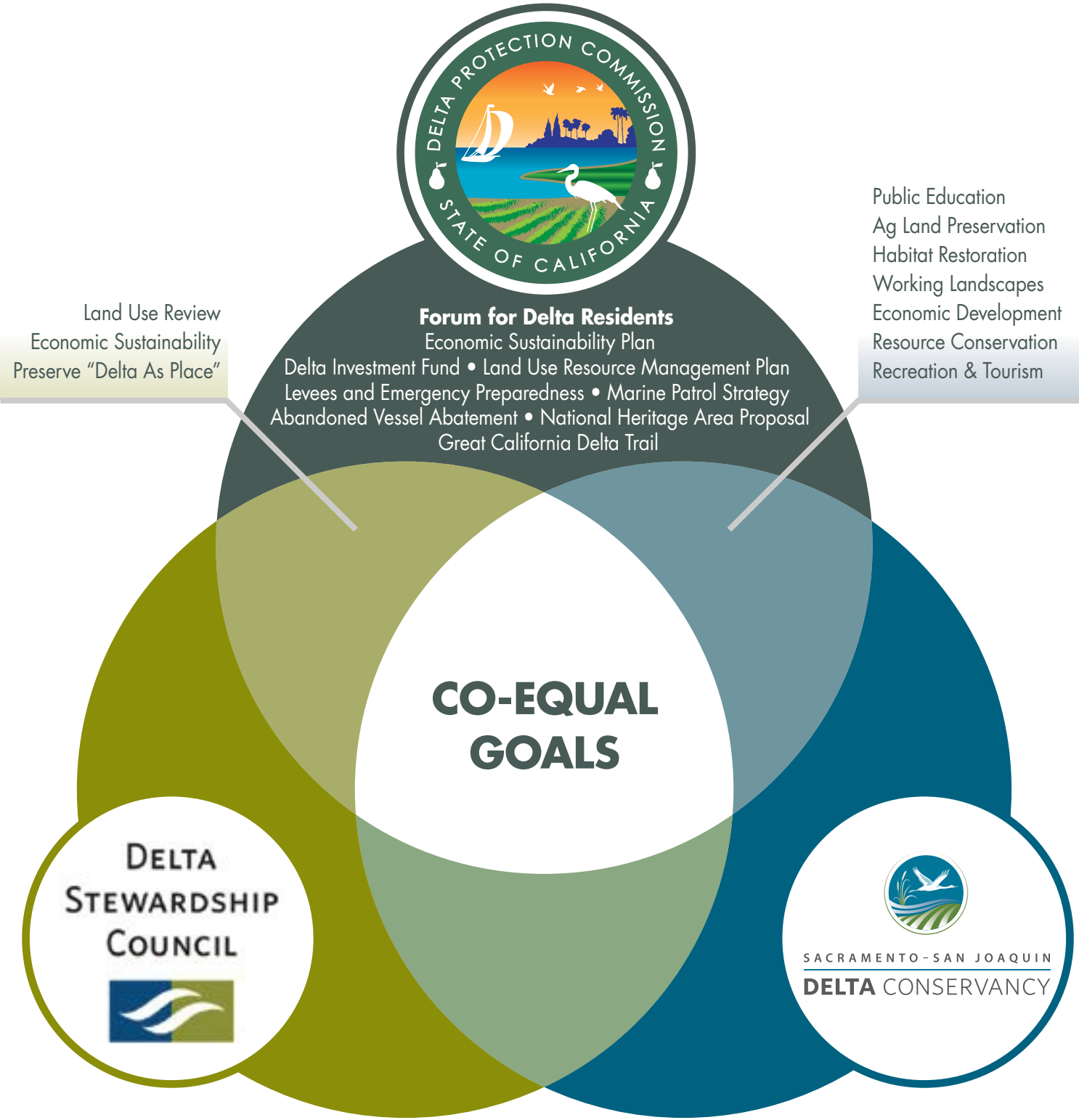
2013 – DPC initiates branding partnership with Delta Conservancy.

2013 – DPC celebrates 20 years of protecting the Delta.

2014 – DPC declares “Delta Flood Preparedness Week,” an awareness campaign providing residents with flood preparedness tools and resources, and hosts a Safety Fair for Delta residents.



THE DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION
and Sister Agencies
created by 2009 Delta legislation





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